MOTHER SHIPTON's STATUE

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Shipton (Mrs Ursula)

PAST, PRESENT, and TO COME:

OR,

Mother SHIPTON'S Yorkſhire Prophecy.

Privately preſerv'd in the Noble Family of the *P—-s's* for a long Courſe of Years, and lately diſcovered amongſt other valuable Manuſcripts.

Now publiſh'd by *J. TYRREL*, Gent.

To which is prefixed,

A Short ACCOUNT of her

Life, Character, and other Propheſies,

With their Proper EXPLANATIONS.

She, tho' from Heav'n remote, to Heavn could move
With Strength of Mind, and tread th' Abyſs above;
And penetrate, with her interior Light,
Thoſe upper Depths which Nature hid from Sight;
And what ſhe had obſerv'd and learn'd from thence,
Lov'd in familiar Language to diſpenſe.

DRYDEN.

LONDON:

Printed for F. NOBLE, at *Otway's-Head* in *St. Martin's-Court* near *Leiceſter-Fields*, 1740.

(Price Six-pence.)

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BRITISH MUSEUM

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[redacted]

Mother SHIPTON's Yorkshire Prophecy, &c.

[redacted] Arrows have been the Conjectures of Mankind, in this Part of the World, concerning our famous Prophetess: Some have reported her Father was a Necromancer, and her Mother a Witch, so she had the Black Art by Succession. Others, of a more exalted Turn, pretend, that her Mother, being left an Orphan, about the Age of Sixteen, took a Walk into the Fields, and sitting down upon a green Bank, under a Shade, to sooth her Melancholy, a Daemon, in the Shape of a handsome young Man, appeared before her, and enquired the Cause of her Distress? She answered him, her Parents and Friends were dead, and she despaired of a

Livelihood. Upon which, under a Pre-
tence of being a Perſon of Figure and For-
tune, he gave her to underſtand, if ſhe
would comply with his Deſires he would pre-
ſerve her above the Reach of Want as long as
ſhe lived. She readily condeſcended, re-
ceived him into her Apartment, and enter-
tained him as a Gallant. In return he bid
her ſweep the Floor once every Day after
his Departure. She punctually obſerved his
Directions, and never failed of finding a
Quantity of Nine-Pences, Three-Pences,
and other odd Kind of Pieces ſufficient for
all her Occaſions.

At length the Embraces of her infernal
Gallant produced a Pregnancy, and at the
Time of her Delivery, ſuch a terrible Storm
of Thunder and Lightning appear'd, that
Houſes were beat down, Trees ſhatter'd,
and the very Features of the Child were ſo
warp'd and diſtorted, that it appear'd the
very Maſter-Piece of Deformity.

But theſe, and many other Reports of
like Nature, are as Romantick as the fabu-
lous Intrigues of the Heathen Gods and God-
deſſes. The genuine Account is, She was
born in *July*, 1488, in the Reign of K.
Hen. VII. near *Knareſborough*, in the County
of *York*. She was, like the reſt of Female

Infants

Infants, her Mother's Daughter by a Man; and was baptiz'd by the Abbot of *Beverly*, by the Name of *Ursula Southiel*. Her Stature was larger than common, her Body crooked, her Face frightful, but her Understanding extraordinary.

Tis vulgar Relations of her Life and Actions are equally extravagant with those of her Birth beforemention'd. But as those Legends are so ridiculous and trifling, the ingenuous Reader will excuse us if we pass 'em by, and proceed to more probable and authentick Information.

'Tis generally held, by most of the first Quality and best Judgment in the County, that She was a Person of an ordinary Education, but great Piety; and that she was supernaturally endow'd with an uncommon Penetration into Things. For which she became so famous, in Time, that great Numbers of all Ranks and Degrees resorted to her Habitation to hear her wonderful Discoveries.

We find nothing particularly remarkable of her till she arrived at the Age of Twenty Four Years, when she was courted by One *Toby Shipton*, a Builder of *Shipton*, a Village situate four Miles North of the City of *York*, who soon after marry'd her; and from this Match

Match she afterwards driv'd the Name of Mother Shipton.

After her Marriage her Fame increas'd more than ever; the Events prov'd the Truth of her Predictions, and many began to commit 'em to Writing.

The first remarkable Prophecy recorded of Her's, is that upon Cardinal *Wolsey*. The Story runs as follows.

She was told, the Cardinal intended to remove his Residence to *York* (that being his Archbishoprick) Upon which she publickly gave out, *he should never reach the City*. This Report coming to the Cardinal's Ear, he sent three Gentlemen, or Lords of his Retinue to her to enquire the Truth of it, and to menace her if she persisted in it. These three came disguised to a Village, a Mile West of the City, call'd *Dring-Houses*, and having their Horses, they took a Guide to direct them to her House. Upon their knocking at the Door, 'tis said she call'd out from within, *Come in* Mr. *Brasly* (that being the Name of the Guide) *and the three noble Lords with you.* This Discovery very much surpriz'd 'em; but, when they were enter'd, she call'd each by his Name, and presented 'em with Cakes and Ale. They signify'd to her, if she knew their Errand

she

she would hardly treat 'em so handsomely. *You gave out* say they, *the Cardinal should never see* York. *No*, she replies, *I said he might see it, but never come at it.* They return, *when he does come he'll certainly burn thee.* Then, taking her Linnen Handkerchief off her Head, *if this burn* says she, *so shall I*; and casting it into the Fire before 'em, she let it lay in the Flames a Quarter of an Hour, and taking it out again it was not so much as sing'd; which very much astonish'd 'em. One of them asked her, what she thought of Him. She answered, *The Time will come, my Lord, when You shall be as low as I am, and that is low indeed.* This was Judg'd to be verify'd when *Thomas Lord Cromwel* was beheaded. The Cardinal coming to *Cawood*, ascended the Castle-Tower, and taking a Prospect of the City of *York*, at about Eight Miles Distance, he vow'd, when he came there he would burn the *Witch*; but e'er he descended the Stairs, a Message arrived from the King to demand his Presence forthwith; So he was obliged to return directly, and being took with a violent Looseness at *Leicester*, he gave up the Ghost in his Journey; which verify'd the Prophecy.

Several Others she delivered to different Persons. One of which was.

Before

Before * Ouze-Bridge *and* † Trinity-Church *meet, what is built in the Day shall fall in the Night, till the highest Stone of the* Church *lie the lowest Stone of the* Bridge.

THIS came to pass; for the Steeple was blown down in a Tempest, and the Bridge broke down by a Flood occasioned by the Storm, and how it came to pass we cannot learn, that what they built in the Day fell down in the Night; but 'tis generally asserted it was so; and it is certain the Top Stone of the former Steeple is the Foundation Stone of that part of the Bridge then rebuilt.

THE second of this Kind runs thus; *Time shall happen A Ship shall sail upon the River* Thames, *till it reach the City of* London, *the Master shall weep, and cry out, Ah! What a flourishing City was this when I left it! Unequalled through the World! But now scarce a House is left to entertain us with a Flagon.*

THIS was terribly verify'd when the City was Burnt, *Septemb.* 1666. There being not One House left from the Tower to the Temple.

* A large Stone Bridge over the River *Ouze*, within the City of *York*.

† A Church situate several hundred Yards from the Bridge

WE

We now come to the Prophecy that occasioned this Publication, and which appears far to exceed every Thing of the like Nature extant. A Copy of it was lately found amongst the Manuscripts of a Gentleman deceas'd, with this Title;

A Copy of a Collection of Prophesies deliver'd to the Abbot of Beverly, *and several other Persons, by Mother* Ursula Shipton; *and put together with her Approbation; which hath been preserved in Manuscript in the Lord P——s's Family these many Years.*

The Prophecies are as follow.

About the Time that One *shall be*
Joyned unto Two times Three,
And Four times Ten *with* Four times Two,
Amongst us shall be great Ado.
An Eagle's Head *that Time shall fall*
And scatter fore his Young Ones *all.*
Then shall a Cypher *swell full great,*
His Name A Hundred *takes the Seat,*
And shall do mighty Things before;
He is removed off the Shore;
But Ten times Five *with* Two *and* Six,
Him in another World shall fix.

And quickly after you shall spy
The Eagle *back again to fly.*
He shall bedeck himself again
With Feathers *on his Father's Train*
'Till heavy Times shall make Men say,
Full oft', Alack! and, Well-a-Day.
And after all a Cloud *shall come,*
And almost darken quite the Sun,
And in that Time Actions shall be
Chiefly driven on by Three;
The Cross, *the* Surplice, *and the* Crown,
Strive who shall put each Other down,
Great Treachery and Bloodshed then
Shall sweep away great Store of Men
The Lion *and* Blue Flowers *shall seek*
Quite to destroy the Heretick Sheep.
And when the Cow *shall ride the* Bull,
Then motly Priest *beware thy Skull.*
For a sweet pious Prince *make Room,*
And for the Kirk *prepare a* Broom.
Alecto *next shall sieze the Crown,*
And Streams of Blood run Smithfield *down.*
A Maiden-Queen *full many a Year,*
Shall England's *warlike Scepter bear.*
The Western Monarch's wooden Horses
Shall be destroyed by a Drake's *Forces*
The Northern Lion, *over* Tweed,
The Maiden-Queen *shall next succeed,*

And

And Joyn in One two mighty States,
And then shall Janus *shut his Gates.*
Now England *soon is hard bested*
Before the Mitre's Head *be rid.*
False Ireland *contrives our Woe,*
But zealous Scotland *doth not so.*
Rough Mars *shall rage as he were wood*
And Earth shall darkned be with Blood.
Then will be sacrificed, C.
And not a King in England *be.*
But Death shall snatch the Wolf *away,*
Confusion shall give up its Sway.
And Fate to England *shall restore*
A King to reign as heretofore.
Triumphant Death rides London *thro';*
And Men on Tops of Houses go
J. R. *shall into Saddle slide.*
And furiously to Rome *shall ride.*
The Pope *shall have a fatal Fall,*
And never more distress Whitehall.
A Queen *shall Knit both* North *and* South;
And take away the Luce's *Tooth.*
A Lion-Duce *shall after reign,*
And of the Whiskers *clear the Main,*
But he that chanceth to survive,
Shall see old England *mainly thrive.*
England's *Wonder, which ne'er hath been,*
Three Queens *in* England *shall be seen.*

Two Dukes shall for the Crown contend,
And bring the M——y to End.
Biſhops shall fall into Contempt and Scorn,
And Goſpel-Anglers shall the Kirk adorn.
If any aſk, how theſe Things come to paſs;
The Fox shall ride the Gooſe, the Gooſe the Aſs.

THE greateſt Part of what has been hitherto Publiſhed under the Title of *Mother Shipton's* Propheſies, plainly appears to be no more than imperfect Bits and Scraps of this Collection, carry'd away, perhaps, in the Memory of Such as might, ſometime have the Opportunity of ſeeing it in the Noble Family where it was lodged. The whole ſeems entirely to point at the great Events that already have, and yet may happen to both Church and State in this, and the neighbouring Nations. The firſt Thirty Verſes ſeem to relate to the Diſaſters that ſhould befall a great Part of *Europe*, during the Time of K. *Hen.* VIII. For the 29th and 30th Verſes terminate in his Reign, and are the laſt wherein that Reign can be underſtood to be hinted at.

V. 29.

V. 29. *And when the* Cow *shall ride the* Bull.

This seems to have been fulfilled when *Hen.* VIII. married Lady *Anna Bullen*; for He, as Duke of *Richmond*, placed the *Cow* in his Arms, and the Creſt of her Family was a black *Bull's Head*.

V. 30. *Then motly* Prieſt *beware thy Skull.*

Preſently after the King's Marriage, the Seizure of Abbey-Lands, &c. and the Diſſolution of Monaſteries enſued; whereby the *Skull*, or *Head-piece* of the Prieſthood (i. e. *Gain*) was miſerably broke.

V. 31. *For a* ſweet pious Prince *make Room.*

By this, doubtleſs, is meant K. *Edward* VI. a part of whoſe Character is thus given by the learned Dean *Echard*, in his Hiſtory of *England*;

"He was truly Juſt and merciful in his "Diſpoſition; and took ſpecial Care of the "Petitions that were given him by the Poor "and Oppreſſed. But his Zeal for Religion "crowned all the Reſt; which did not pro-

"ceed

" ceed from an angry *Heat*, but from a *real* " *Tenderneſs* of Conſcience, founded on the " Love of God, and his Fellow-Creatures."

V. 32. *And for the* *Kirk *prepare a* Broom.

THIS alludes to the Beginning of the Reformation; when many Superſtitions were *ſwept* out of the Church.

V. 33. Alecto *next ſhall ſieze the Crown.*

Alecto was One of the fabulous *Furies* of the Heathen; whoſe Employment was to kindle War, and Diſtreſs Mankind. She is here placed for Q. *Mary* I. In whoſe Reign, as it is alluded to in the 34th Verſe, the Blood of the Proteſtant Martyrs was plentifully ſhed in *Smithfield*.

Verſe 35, and 36.

A Maiden Queen, *full many a Year,*
Shall England's *warlike Scepter bear.*

BY theſe are meant Queen *Elizabeth*, who reigned 44 Years, 4 Months, and 6 Days, Upon whom *Andrew Marvel* has left the following Verſes.

* A North-Country Word for *Church*.

' *The*

'*The other Day fam'd* Spencer, *I did bring*
'*In lofty Notes* Tudor's *bleſs'd Race to Sing;*
'*How* Spain's *proud Pow'rs her* Virgin-Arms *controll'd,*
'*And Golden Days in peaceful Order roll'd:*
'*How, like ripe Fruit, ſhe dropp'd from off her Throne,*
'*Full of grey Hairs, good Deeds, and great Renown.*'

Verſe 37 and 38.

The Weſtern Monarch's wooden Horſes
Shall be deſtroyed by a Drake's *Forces.*

THE *Weſtern Monarch* is ſuppoſed to mean the K. of *Spain*, whoſe Country lies on the Weſt Side of the Continent; and his *Wooden Horſes* his Fleet of Ships, or *Armada*, vanquiſhed by Admiral *Drake*, and the Reſt of the Queen's Forces, in the Year 1588.

Verſe 39, and 40.

The northern Lion, *over* Tweed,
The Maiden Queen *ſhall next ſucceed.*

The *northern Lion*; i. e. K. *James* 1. born in *Scotland*, called a *Lion*, not in Conſideration of any great Heroiſms he ſhould perform, but becauſe the *Lion* is the Princi-

pal

pal Figure in the *Britiſh* Arms; whence the *King*, as the principal Perſon in the Realm, metaphorically takes the Name.

Verſe 41, and 42.

And Join, in One, Two mighty States,
And then ſhall Janus *ſhut his Gates.*

The firſt bears an Alluſion to the Uniting of the Two Crowns of *England* and *Scotland* in One, in the Perſon of K. *James*. And the Second, points out the *peaceful Reign* of that Monarch, by ſhutting the Gates of *Janus*; who was One of the Heathen Gods, and the Gates of whoſe Temple were never ſhut but in Time of Peace.

Verſe 43, and 44. ſeem to hint at ſome great Calamities that ſhould befall this Nation before the Depoſition of Epiſcopacy, in the Reign of the Republican Anarchy, under *O. Cromwel.*

Verſe 45, and 46.

Falſe Ireland *contrives our Woe,*
But zealous Scotland *doth not ſo.*

Doubtless theſe intended the execrable Maſſacre in *Ireland*, in the Reign of King *Charles*

Charles I. And the Loyalty of the *Scotch* in not Joyning the *Irish* Rebels, but suffering with the *English*.

Verse 47, 48, 49, and 50.

Rough Mars *shall rage as he were* *wood,
And Earth shall dark-red be with Blood;
Then will be sacrificed, &c.
And not a King in England *be*.

This was verify'd in the Time of the Grand Rebellion, and unnatural Civil War, when the Nation was torn and pillag'd, the Laws broke, the Constitution overturned, and the King and Monarchy slain together.

Verse 51, 52, 53, and 54.

But Death shall snatch the Wolf *away*;
Confusion *shall give up the Sway*;
And Fate to England *shall restore*
A King, *to reign as heretofore*.

If we guess aright, the first of these Verses alludes to the Death of *Oliver Cromwel*; and the other Three to the Restoration of K. *Charles* 2.

* Mad.

Verſe 55, and 56.

Triumphant Death rides London *thro',*
And Men on Tops of Houſes go.

THE firſt, in all appearance, points out the terrible Plague that rag'd in *London* 1665. The Second, circumſtantially alludes to the dreadful Fire in the Year following; ſignifying that People ſhould be oblig'd to run from One Houſe to another, over the Tops of the Houſes, to ſave themſelves, and their Effects.

V. 57. J: R: *ſhall into Saddle ſlide:*

J. R. i. e. *James Rex*, or *King James* 2. who aſcended the Throne upon the Death of K. *Charles* 2.

V. 58. *And furiouſly to Rome ſhall ride.*

SCARCE was he ſettled upon the Throne, before he went to Maſs publickly; and, by purſuing imprudent and illegal Meaſures, was the Cauſe of the Verification of,

Verſe 59, and 60:

The Pope *ſhall have a fatal Fall,*
And never more diſtreſs Whitehall:

For

For he was abdicated for his Miſ-government; and his Son in-Law K. *William* and Queen *Mary* II. were placed upon his Throne.

V: 61: *A* Queen *ſhall knit both North and South:*

This ſeems to refer to the Union of *England* and *Scotland* in the Reign of Queen *Anne*.

V: 62: *And take away the* 'Luce's *Tooth.*

This, likewiſe ſeems to relate to her extraordinary Victories over Lewis 14. King of *France*; who we judge to be intended here by the *Luce*, which, by way of Elliſion, might here be put for *Flower de Luce*; the Arms of that Monarchy:

Verſe 63, and 64;
A Lion-Duce *ſhall after reign,*
And of the Whiſkers *clear the Main.*

What is meant by the *Lion-Duce* may be Matter of Amuſement to the Curious; but as the Word *Duce* ſometimes repreſents the Number *Two*, ſo *Two* in this ambiguous Kind of Phraſe, may intend the ſimilar Word

Second; and our preſent gracious Sovereign being the *Second Lion* (of *Engliſh Monarch*) of his Name, it is far from being unlikely that he may be the Prince here pointed out who ſhall clear the Main of the *Whiſkers*, which is a Northern Term for *Muſtachioes*, and doubtleſs alludes here to the *Spaniſh*, whoſe Fashion it has been, for many Centuries paſt, to wear them. But as this appears to relate to the preſent Age, we leave it to the Skilful and Ingenious; as we likewiſe do the following Verſes, which ſeem to predict ſomething further below than the Reach of the preſent Age.

WHETHER the Prophecy of the *Lily* be *Mother Shipton*'s or no we can't certainly determine, but as it has been attributed to her and is writ in a peculiar Sublimity of Senſe and Stile, we think it would be very improper to omit it. It runs as follows:

The Lilly *ſhall remain in a merry World; and he ſhall be moved againſt the Seed of the* Lion; *and he ſhall ſtand on One Side of his Country with a Number of Ships. Then ſhall come the* Son of Man, *having a fierce Beaſt in his Arms; whoſe Kingdom is the Land of the* Moon, *which is dreaded throughout the whole World. With a Number of People ſhall he paſs*

many

many Waters, and shall come to the Land of the Lion, *looking for Help of the Beast of his Country. And an* Eagle *shall come out of the East, spread with the Beams of the* Son of Man, *and shall destroy* Castles of the Thames; *and there shall be Battles among many Kingdoms. That Year shall be the bloody Field, and* Lilly, F. K. *shall lose his Crown; and therewith shall be crowned the* Son of Man K. W. *and the Fourth Year shall be many Battles for the Faith, and the* Son of Man, *with the* Eagles *shall be preferred; and there shall be an universal Peace over the whole World, and there shall be Plenty of Fruits; and then shall he go to the Land of the* Cross.

WHETHER the Accompliſhment of this Prophecy be paſt, or to come we cannot aſcertain. It appears to be very deep and miſterious; we therefore leave it to Perſons of profounder Penetration and ſuperior Judgment.

WE are informed, the laſt Prediction of our famous Propheteſs, was concerning the Time of her own Death; which 'tis ſaid ſhe declared to ſeveral who viſited her in her advanc'd Age. And when the Time ſhe had prophely'd of approached, ſhe called her Frien[illegible] toge-

together, adviſed them well, and took a ſolemn Leave of them, and, laying herſelf down on her Bed, ſhe departed with much Serenity; being upwards of Seventy Three Years of Age. After her Death a Monument of Stone was erected to her Memory, in the high North-Road betwixt the Villages of *Clifton* and *Shipton*, about a Mile diſtant from the City of *York*: The Monument repreſents a Woman upon her Knees, with her Hands cloſed before her, in a praying Poſture; and ſtands there to be ſeen to this Day.

FINIS.

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